



AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INC.

1430 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

---

NEWSLETTER NUMBER SIXTY-SIX

July 1968

---

THE DESERT OF ESNA

by Helen Jacquet

The tourists who wend their way through the narrow streets of Esna in order to visit the temple situated in the city's busiest section, never dream that out beyond the crowded town, the desert, seemingly so empty and barren, likewise contains numerous and interesting vestiges of antiquity, mainly of the early Christian period. It was with the idea of rounding out his picture of the ancient remains in the vicinity of Esna that Serge Sauneron, of the French Institute of Archaeology in Cairo, who has long been occupied with the publication of the temple itself, decided to investigate these Christian sites, one of which had been brought to his attention by the local schoolmaster. My husband and I in our respective capacities as architect and archaeologist, accompanied him and the other members of the Institute staff during the two seasons' work.

Leaving the dirt road over which we had been jogging from the outskirts of the city and through the cultivated fields, we arrived at the desert's edge, marked by extensive Christian and Moslem cemeteries containing interesting architectural remains. Our goal was further out - one of the new villages built by the government beyond the present limit of the cultivation for the resettlement of elements of the Nubian population forced to leave their homes because of the rising water behind the High Dam. Agricultural organizations have prepared a vast area of desert here for irrigation, and planting only waits on the arrival of water in the canals. For our sojourn we had rented a block of the still empty houses whose proximity to the ancient sites greatly facilitated our work.



Our first job was locating the sites of which nothing was visible above ground. The sum total of our knowledge concerning them amounted to this: that they lay in the wide desert area west of the city; that they were underground; that at least one of them contained wall-paintings; that they were of the Christian period. It had been surmised that the painted room (first seen by Sayce) belonged to a church.

A short reconnaissance out into the desert revealed first one and later on a number of spots rather widely separated from each other where the stony surface of the ground was interrupted by pockets of sand around which lay a scattering of potsherds. Work was begun in the sand-pocket nearest our village and in a surprisingly short time it became evident that we were in an open court cut down into the gebel, whose walls were covered with a thick coat of hard, white plaster. Excavation presented no difficulties as the court had simply been filled with clean drift sand dropped there by the winds which periodically sweep the desert. A few hours' work, and the tops of niches, windows and doors began to appear, so that much sooner than we would ever have expected we had emptied of sand a whole complex of rooms radiating out from the court on all sides. It was now clear that this was not a church but a place of habitation - a hermitage. Eight of these complexes were excavated during the first season and five during the second.

Access to the typical hermitage was provided by a well-built staircase leading down into the court whose floor was approximately four meters below ground level. The rooms around the court varied in number but always included

- 1) a large hall, the "oratory", so-called because it appeared to be the room used by the hermit for his devotions. A lengthy Coptic inscription painted below a triple niche in the east wall invoked the blessings of a long list of saintly persons. Light came in from the court through round windows, rather like the port-holes in a boat, which had originally contained panes of glass. The whole room, walls, ceiling and floor, was plastered white, and painted designs, usually in red but sometimes also in black, yellow, green, and blue, formed frames around the niches and doors, varied with crosses and friezes of inscription. One of the more elaborately decorated oratories contained a "portrait gallery" of saints' heads.

- 2) a very well-appointed kitchen containing a stove with two hearths and provided with an excellent chimney. Cupboards consisted of niches with built-in jars for the storage of grain or other dry foods. Some acacia pods were found in one of them, and pits of dumpalm fruits in another. The jars could be closed with pottery or mud lids to keep out vermin. Some of the hermitages, but not all, had special bread ovens.

- 3) a small room, probably a bedroom, sometimes provided with a built-in bench or bed.

- 4) one or more small storage rooms.



A hermitage of this kind appeared to be intended for the occupation of only one hermit accompanied perhaps by his acolyte. Several of the hermitages, however, seemed to be "double", that is to say they contained two "oratories" and were probably inhabited by two hermits, each of whom had his private apartment but who probably did their cooking in common. Surprisingly little was found in the way of objects in these hermitages. Aside from the very abundant potsherds (including large quantities of amphorae for both wine and water) only rare fragments of glass and leather were found. Three of the hermitages were considerably smaller and simpler in design. These must have belonged to persons of more limited means or more ascetic tastes.

During the second season a church was located near the cultivation. It had suffered somewhat from the bulldozers and only the ground-plan and some fragments of walls remained. Nevertheless it was ascertained that the church had been rebuilt at least twice, and that it was surrounded by a large enclosure wall within whose precincts numerous installations had existed including an underground chapel, a saqia, and bread ovens. Dating evidence makes it probable that the hermitages were inhabited during a comparatively short period of time not later than the sixth century, whereas the church continued to function well into the seventh century.

The desert hermitages were again filled with sand at the end of the season in order to protect them from destruction by casual visitors. The remains of the church will in any case disappear under the fields of sugar-cane and dura.

#### THE CENTER FOR ARABIC STUDIES

by John A. Williams, Director

As a part of the American University, the Center for Arabic Studies has been under sequestration by U.A.R. Government authorities this year. There is complete agreement by the University that the officials appointed by the government have been fair, honest, sympathetic and eminently reasonable. This closer relation with the government has produced several benefits, such as greater rationalization of the staffing structure for non-teaching staff, closer ties with the U.A.R. universities, and the chance to demonstrate the University's approach to education, and the results it is able to obtain. One result of this has been an initiative, on the part of higher education circles, to see that A.U.C. degrees receive full accreditation in Egypt - a situation which has never been true in the past, and which would be of assistance to U.A.R. graduates of A.U.C. seeking employment or an opportunity to do graduate work in their own country.

Also, the reduced number of foreign staff who returned to Cairo this summer was made up by highly qualified Egyptian professors who taught courses at the University during this year. It has, therefore, been a productive and active year at A.U.C. While it has not kept up the rapid expansion of the last years, there is a feeling that it was time anyway to consolidate gains, and there has been no contraction. It must be emphasized that the Egyptian authorities have done everything in their power to render a potentially difficult year agreeable and academically profitable.

Foreign students of the Center for Arabic Studies with fellowships returned this year, and a new group is expected this September.

The Department continues to offer courses leading to B.A. and M.A. degrees in three fields: Islamic Art, Islamic History and Civilization, and Arabic Language and Literature. All three major programs have been restudied this year, and new courses have been added. They are now of exceptionally high quality.

One of the more interesting developments in the Center for Arabic Studies this year has been the inauguration of the graduate intensive Arabic language program, CASA (Center for Arabic Studies Abroad). The pilot group of students which arrived in January, has just completed a most satisfying first year. Some will be staying for the summer. As envisaged, the program will bring up to twenty advanced Arabic students for a full academic year of intensive language study, and another group of up to thirty for a short course in the summer. It is also possible to combine the two sessions for one year's intensive training. This year, due to drop-outs following the June war, eight long-course students came. For next year, fifteen are now expected, and the summer group is expected to arrive on June 15.

The program is supported by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and is governed by a group of eight leading American graduate schools involved in Arabic language instruction. The co-directing institution with A.U.C. is the University of California at Berkeley.

The Arabic teaching staff and materials are those of the Center for Arabic Studies' Language Unit for teaching foreigners, on a more sustained and intensive pitch, since CASA students are expected to work full time on Arabic.

It is clear that this program will make possible a great advance in Arabic standards for American students, and it has been encouraging to observe the progress possible in the first year.



PACKING UP DENDUR

by William B. Bromell, First Secretary  
United States Interests Section, Spanish Embassy

Henry Fischer of the Metropolitan Museum visited Cairo last October to make the final arrangements for moving the Dendur Temple to New York. It was an extremely hot morning when he came to my office to brief me on the complexities of the Dendur story - of which I had heard but the tiniest fraction before - and by the time he had finished my head was awl with unfamiliar names and unassimilated facts. The names have since become real persons and the facts well digested.

My notes of this first conversation read "about 700 stones -- Elephantine Island -- Aswan -- Shihata Adham -- barges (?) -- treat with preservative (?) -- committee must convene (see Miss Burri at Italian Embassy for details)."

Henry kindly arranged for me to meet Miss Burri, who had handled the removal and shipment to Italy of the temple which the UAR Government had given to the Italians. By the time we had finished lunch at Groppi's and Miss Burri had given her account of the difficulties she had encountered in moving the Italian temple, I seriously doubted my judgment in having agreed to represent the Metropolitan in connection with the shipment of Dendur.

As things turned out, however, it has not been particularly difficult. The UAR Ministry of Culture was quick to approve the Metropolitan's plans for the housing of the temple when it is re-erected in New York. The Museum will construct a new wing extending from the north end of its building for the sole purpose of housing the temple. Constructed largely of glass, the wing will provide maximum seeability for the public. Dendur is a small and beautifully proportioned temple of the Roman period and should be a lovely sight in its new location, different as this will be from the landscape of Nubia where the temple originally stood. The Museum expects to have completed the new wing by 1970.

Like Abu Simbel, Dendur would have been submerged beneath the waters of the Nile south of the High Dam had it not been dismantled and moved. This was accomplished by the UAR Service for the Preservation of Nubian Monuments under the immediate supervision of Mr. Taha Shiltawi in 1963. The blocks were numbered, plans drawn to ensure correct re-erection, and the stones floated down the Nile in barges to Elephantine Island where they have been stored until the current stage of their journey to the United States began in February of this year.

My mental image of Elephantine was based on a Roberts print of 1836 and I had imagined that its present atmosphere would have none of the romance which Roberts captured so long ago. On the way to Aswan in the train I read about Elephantine which commanded "the gateway to Nubia" through which the exotic goods of Africa reached the courts of ancient



Egypt -- dwarfs, ostrich plumes, leopard skins, ivory, and amber. As the train rumbled along the Nile, through placid villages and green fields, I became increasingly depressed at the prospect of an Elephantine of today -- a tourist spot.

The Nile at Aswan is narrow and swift and it forces its way through the myriad islands which form the third cataract. Blue-green and sparkling, it seems to have no relationship to the Nile of Cairo and the Delta. The coves and bays among the islands and the flocks of lateen rigged feluccas gliding among them give the place an air of the Mediterranean. Elephantine itself disposes its larger bulk in the middle of this, polished rock on the upstream end, a palm grove and tiny village in its center, a long sand beach downriver. It is not hard at all to conjure up the Lords of Elephantine, and Roberts had not been overtaken by the twentieth century. From the hotel verandah I could see the Dendur stones, some of which had already been placed in their wooden cases near the water's edge but most of which remained spread out along a little hill among the palms.

The Metropolitan Museum had engaged Joint Venture Abu Simbel to construct the wooden cases in which the stones will be shipped and to transport them down the 550 miles of the Nile to Alexandria. Joint Venture is the consortium of Swedish, German, Italian and French engineering firms which have carried out the prodigious task of relocating the temple at Abu Simbel.

Mr. Charles Uggle is the Joint Venture manager at Aswan, the support base for the Abu Simbel project. As such, he has the immediate responsibility for the shipment of Dendur. We sailed over to Elephantine in one of the little feluccas. These are very smart sailors with their big -- and well cut -- lateen sails and sheet-iron center boards, and they make their way handily against wind and current while their captain steers with a sure and steady foot.

I knew that there were a total of 661 stones in Dendur and that their total weight when crated would run to about 750 tons. I was not prepared, however, for the impression of bulk which they conveyed, spread out over an area of ground about 40 yards long and 20 wide. There were piles of lumber, a storehouse for tools, a large circular saw, a winch, derrick, and little railroad track leading down to the beach. When crated each block would be horsed onto a cart and rolled down the tracks to the water's edge. The blocks are of sandstone and therefore have to be handled and packed with great care to avoid damage. Each block is carefully wedged within its case to prevent shifting and pads of styrofoam are placed between the stone and wood to avoid scuffing. The case is finally banded with steel strapping.

Toward the end of May almost all the blocks had been crated with the lids tacked down by a couple of nails so they could easily be removed for final inspection by representatives of the Department of Antiquities, the customs authorities, and a representative of the U.S. Government -- me. With this satisfactorily accomplished, ownership of the blocks would be transferred from the UAR Government to the U.S. Government, for which the Metropolitan is the custodian.

At the end of May the various representatives assembled at Aswan, Dr. Hassan Subhi Bakri of the Antiquities Department, the senior UAR



representative, a representative of the Cairo Museum, Mr. Faruk Bahloul who had been associated with the move from Nubia to Elephantine, Mr. Abdin Ziam, the Aswan representative of the Department of Nubian Monuments. Mr. Ugcla and I were also present.

By chance, I had arrived at Aswan ahead of the Committee members and while I waited for them to arrive I had an entire day to myself. I wandered among the ruins on the top of the hill and looked again at a wonderfully preserved painted Horus on a block which had been built into the foundation of some later temple. He is upside-down, wings stretched as if diving into the sand. Just at his head a beetle was patiently digging himself into his hole, his leg describing a small circle over and over again -- a boring machine in miniature. I wondered how much of that white sunlight and hot wind Dendur could convey to those who will visit it on a dripping February day in New York.

I rowed over to Elephantine the morning the Committee arrived and waited for them under the clump of palms next to the "railhead". They arrived in a felucca and after introductions Dr. Bakri began to examine the stones, checking them off against a master list prepared at the time of the removal from Nubia. When he had determined that all were present and accounted for, I signed a paper to that effect and perhaps the most important of the formalities of transfer had been completed.

At this point there was a good deal of pressure of time because the Metropolitan had arranged for shipment of the stones from Alexandria on a vessel which was to sail on the 26th of June. Allowing three weeks for the trip down the Nile and several days for loading onto the barges, Mr. Ugcla felt that loading must begin as soon as possible. He was bringing the Joint Venture floating crane down from Abu Simbel and had chartered the barges. Even so it would require shift work and a bit of luck to make Alexandria by the 24th. I left Aswan hoping for the best.

As it turned out, the Metropolitan has had to reschedule shipment from Alexandria for mid-July. Two barges are already on their way downstream and the other two are nearly loaded. Since it is now but the ninth of June, there is time to spare.

(On June 11 Mr. Bromell signed a Note Verbale to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially accepting the Dendur Temple as a present from the Government and the people of the U.A.R. to the Government and people of the United States, thereby completing the last formality in the transfer of title.)

TEMPLES DE KARNAK, 1967-68

Travaux du Centre Franco-Égyptien d'Étude des Temples de Karnak

Par Serge Sauneron, Co-Directeur

Créé en 1967, le Centre franco-égyptien d'étude des temples de Karnak renoue avec une tradition de recherche vieille maintenant de près d'un siècle, et déjà illustrée par quelques grands noms: Mariette, Legrain, puis Pillet et Chevrier. A côté des missions scientifiques, qui assurent la publication de monuments isolés, il est en effet essentiel qu'un organisme solidement équipé, en personnel et en matériel, puisse assurer, de manière permanente, la sauvegarde des édifices anciens, et poursuive leur étude sur une plus large base.

La sauvegarde de ces temples thébains est en effet une entreprise qui demande une attention constante. Une des menaces les plus graves qui aient jamais mis en danger les monuments de Karnak, vient de la présence de l'eau souterraine, et de la nature alluvionnaire du sous-sol; la nappe d'eau souterraine monte et descend, avec la crue; le Nil étant aujourd'hui plus haut qu'il n'était autrefois, les fondations de presque tous les monuments baignent actuellement dans cette eau; cela compromet la stabilité des fondations; les murs se tassent, des joints s'ouvrent, des pierres éclatent et se fendent; de plus, ces eaux souterraines dissolvent les sels minéraux répandus dans la terre environnante; par capillarité, ces sels dissous remontent à l'intérieur des murs, qui se désagrègent ("salpêtre"). Les récents travaux d'irrigation (Haut Barrage) ont rendu critiques ces menaces. Déjà l'instabilité du sous-sol avait entraîné la chute de portes et d'obélisques; en 1899, celle de nombreuses colonnes de la Salle Hypostyle. Le même sort menaçait un secteur entier de la salle des fêtes, si nous n'étions pas intervenus opportunément en novembre dernier.

Enfin, il fait reconnaître que si les plus grands temples de Karnak semblent connus et dégagés, plus de la moitié de l'aire des temples est encore à explorer; d'autre part, les monuments apparemment les mieux connus recèlent encore, dans leurs fondations et dans leur masse, une réserve innombrable de pierres empruntées aux monuments anciens, qui peuvent nous restituer peu à peu le passé de Karnak. C'est aussi le cas des sous-sols: la cachette des statues, la chapelle blanche de Sésostris, la chapelle rouge d'Hatchepsout, la stèle historique de Kamose, parmi tant d'autres monuments, sont ainsi sorties des fondations, des corps de pylônes, ou du sous-sol du temple.

C'est à ces multiples tâches que le Centre franco-égyptien a consacré ses premiers efforts: sauvegarder les temples de Karnak, veiller à leur meilleure présentation, continuer leur étude.

Les entreprises déjà amorcées ont été naturellement poursuivies; c'est le cas du démontage et de la reconstitution sur de meilleures bases du 9 ième pylône, bâti par Horemheb. Ses parements, écrasés par endroits, sont à consolider, parfois à reconstituer entièrement; ses fondations sont à refaire; son sous-sol à explorer; d'ores et déjà son contenu se révèle incroyablement riche; plus de deux mille blocs inscrits et décorés au



nom d'Aménophis IV en ont été extraits, en dix assises; le double au moins s'y trouve encore en réserve, mêlé à de grandes architraves, et peut-être, aux niveaux les plus bas, à d'autres monuments. Comme le 3 ième pylone, qui a restitué tant de trésors, le 9 ième est donc une mine inestimable de découvertes historiques et artistiques.

A l'ouest du temple, nous avons entrepris le dégagement du tracé du mur d'enceinte détruit, sur lequel nous comptons établir les futurs magasins et laboratoires de Karnak. Ce dégagement a révélé la présence d'un très grand village d'époque chrétienne, qui a livré un matériel de céramique et de petits objets très abondant. L'étude de ce village complète heureusement ce que nous savions de l'occupation chrétienne à Karnak, par les graffiti, les peintures murales, et les vestiges des anciens monastères.

Au fond du temple, où l'état menaçant des piliers, minés par les eaux, nous a obligés à intervenir rapidement, l'étude systématique des édifices de Thoutmosis III et la fouille des secteurs non dégagés ont été menées en même temps que les travaux de consolidation. Le plan qui apparaît maintenant est plus précis que ceux que l'on admettait jusqu'ici. Au cours de ce dégagement, a été retrouvée une magnifique tête en quartzite rouge de Thoutmosis III.

Au 3 ième pylone, où vont être installées les cabines techniques des futurs éclairages nocturnes du temple, le nettoyage des secteurs incomplètement fouillés a amené l'étude des plateformes d'obélisques, et la découverte de nouveaux blocs appartenant à la chapelle rouge de la reine Hatchepsout.

Parallèlement, des études techniques ont été menées, sur le niveau de la nappe souterraine et la nature du sous-sol, et sur les dégradations physiques et chimiques des pierres; les résultats des analyses, faites dans les laboratoires du CNRS en France, et à l'université de Caire, aideront à trouver les solutions nécessaires pour la conservation des édifices. Enfin les points de repères d'un quadrillage géométrique ont été placés par l'Institut géographique national (Paris) sur l'ensemble des temples de Karnak, et une carte photogrammétrique, établie à partir de photos aériennes, a été établie de l'ensemble des édifices actuellement visibles.

Karnak exige, par ses dimensions, et par le caractère urgent des opérations de consolidation et de sauvetage, de nombreux techniciens et des moyens matériels importants; c'est ce qui a rendu nécessaire la création de notre Centre. Cette vaste entreprise n'exclut naturellement pas que les missions scientifiques puissent y poursuivre leurs travaux habituels; c'est ainsi que l'Université de Chicago, comme l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale, chacun sur son terrain, ont poursuivi les fouilles et les publications en cours, et que l'Université de Philadelphie, qui travaille à la reconstitution théorique des temples d'Aménophis IV, a pu tenir compte, dans ses recherches, et avant même que le Centre les ait publiés, des centaines de blocs sortis cette année de l'intérieur du 9 ième pylône.



(Composition de l'équipe: direction: Jean Lauffray, architecte, et Serge Sauneron, égyptologue; directeur-adjoint, Pierre Anus, architecte; égyptologue resident: Ramadan Mustafa Saad; architecte adjoint: Farrag Chahba; architecte-dessinateurs: J. Vérité; Sameh El Alayli; photographe: Alain Bellod; missionnaires: Cl. Bassier (restaurateur); Fr. De Beaucourt (géologue); Dr. Cha'râwy (hydro-geologie); MM Macé et Kurz (géometres de l'Institut géographique national); documentaliste: N. Sauneron. À partir de l'automne 1968, l'équipe comprendra en plus un chimiste-restaurateur sur place et une dessinatrice.)

### BELGIAN EXCAVATIONS AT EL KAB

by Herman de Meulenaere, Director

Since 1937 there have been four archeological seasons at El Kab, a site in Upper Egypt located some fifteen kilometers north of Edfu; they were carried out under the auspices of the Queen Elisabeth Egyptological Foundation (Brussels) in 1937, 1938, 1947 and 1955 with the hope of finding traces of a pharaonic city whose importance was great from prehistoric times until the very end of the pharaonic period and on which there was almost no information. Interrupted for several years, excavations were again begun in 1966 under the auspices of the Belgian Committee of Excavations in Egypt, of which Pierre Gilbert, Chief Curator of the Royal Museums of Art and History and professor at the University of Brussels, was named president in 1965.

A group of experts, led by Professor H. de Meulenaere, Director of Excavations, visited the site in 1966 and developed a program of archaeological research. The first season took place in February-March 1967. During this time the expedition devoted its efforts primarily to a topographical survey of the area situated within the great enclosure, which had to be completed before the excavation itself could begin. At the same time the rock chapel dating from Ptolemaic times, located about three kilometers east of the great enclosure, was cleared.

From the end of January until March 15, 1968, Belgian archeologists returned to El Kab to continue their work. The number of workmen was increased considerably over the previous year, which made it possible to clear several areas in different locations. The purpose of one such operation was to clear the ramp leading to the great temple of the goddess Nekhbet, in the center of the ancient city. A few days' work was sufficient to clear an area paved with flagstones in a relatively good state of preservation, which served as a kind of terrace in front of the temple. North of the sacred lake, within the temple enclosure, the archeologists dug a second trench to gather information on the more recent constructions.



There they discovered a rather wide stairway descending toward the sacred lake. Before reaching the lake, however, the steps turned to the right and buried themselves in the earth. The work had to stop when it reached a level situated two meters below the subterranean water table.

The stairway is an impressive structure whose roof is partially preserved. At least twenty steps are visible, while others are still covered with water. To the north of the stairway, at a level clearly higher than the highest step, remains of a rectangular construction were discovered, whose sandstone paving was surrounded by a wall of unbaked brick. There appeared to be a relationship between this construction and the stairway, and it looked as if it formed a part of the complex of structures in which we could easily recognize the El Kab Nilometer.

Excavations were begun near the eastern entrance of the great enclosure in the area, which had been thought to be prehistoric. Numerous flints were found belonging to a microlithic industry of the last paleolithic period, whose existence in Egypt was still unknown. The prehistoric layers were in certain places disturbed by the tombs of the first pharaonic dynasties. These contained vases and bowls in pottery and alabaster, as well as two palettes of schist.

Finally, Professor Philippe Derchain and his collaborators continued the study of the temples located at the mouth of a wadi a few kilometers east of the great enclosure. During the season he was able to complete the historical and architectural study of a small temple, called the Hammam, which had been built in the reign of Ramses II by Setaou, the Viceroy of the land of Kush (Nubia).

During the season the archeologists were visited by many foreign scholars as well as by Mr. Roland Burny, Chargé d'Affaires of the Belgian Embassy at Cairo, and his wife.

The excavations at the site of El Kab, very extensive and extremely rich in archeological remains, will require many seasons. Although on the whole it has been pretty well destroyed, the city of El Kab today still reflects its great past. It is known that since prehistoric times El Kab has played an important role in Egyptian history. Inhabited during the Archaic Period and the Old Kingdom, it was particularly favored by the kings of the Middle Kingdom, who built splendid monuments there. The pharaohs of the New Kingdom continued the tradition by building new temples and enlarging those which already existed. During the Late Period other kings contributed, if not to the beauty at least to the monumental importance of the great temple of the goddess Nekhbet. It was not until under the Roman occupation that all life seemed to disappear from the area and the city was destroyed.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA-YALE EXPEDITION AT ABYDOS, 1968

by David O'Connor, Director

The Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition carried out a comparatively short season this year, lasting from approximately 10th March to 20th April, but the principal aims of the season were accomplished. The excavations were directed by Mr. David O'Connor of the University Museum, and the staff consisted of Mrs. O'Connor, Miss Elizabeth Dowman, Mr. Barry Kemp, Mr. Vincent Piggott and Mr. Abdullah es Sayed, Inspector for Sohag Governorate. The co-director, Professor Simpson of Yale University, was most unfortunately prevented from participating by an accident in the United States.

The expedition's work was directed primarily to completing the facsimile record of the over six hundred objects and inscriptions discovered last season, but a twenty days' excavation with some hundred men removed a large amount of surface debris from the area southeast of the Ramesses Portal in preparation for further work next season. It is now clear that this area is occupied by a complex of late New Kingdom tombs, all apparently badly plundered. A number of new inscriptions and objects were discovered in the course of this work.

The Expedition house was completed during the season and was occupied by the staff. As usual, the assistance of Dr. Mokhtar and his officials contributed greatly to the success of the season.

DRA ABU EL-NAGA, 1968

Mr. Lanny Bell, on his way through Cairo in the last week in April after his second season at Dra Abu el-Naga in Luxor under the auspices of the Pennsylvania University Museum, reported a successful season, once he discovered the solution best suited for cleaning the walls of the tombs in which he was working. Specifically, Mr. Bell, who had with him an American assistant: (1) continued his collation in Tomb 35 (Bekenkhons) and cleaned the tomb's walls and ceiling; (2) cleared Tomb 157 (Nebwenenef), began rebuilding the tomb's pillars, shored up the ceiling and began the cleaning operation; (3) installed electricity in the tombs; and (4) installed screens across the entrances of ten tombs to control bats, chickens and insects.



## CHICAGO HOUSE ENDS ITS 1968 SEASON

by Charles F. Nims, Director

The season's work of the Epigraphic Survey closed on 15 April 1968, on schedule. All the work at the High Gate of Medinet Habu was completed in March, and all equipment of the expedition has been removed from this site. At the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef all major work is near completion, and there is only final checking to be done at the beginning of the 1968-69 season.

The complete records of the High Gate at Medinet Habu are being taken to Chicago and preparations for the publication will begin as soon as the American members of the staff return to the University. All completed drawings, photographs, and accompanying records of the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef are also being taken to Chicago.

## PROFESSOR EMERY'S 1968 SEASON AT SAQQARA

Professor Walter Bryan Emery completed his 1968 season at Saqqara on April 11, under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Society. Prof. Emery believes he has now determined the location and established the limits of the temple sacred to the cow mothers of Apis and thinks that the entrance to the labyrinth containing the sacred cows may lie only a few hundred yards from the site of the excavation.

Prof. Emery has excavated what he believes was the foundation on which the temple to the cow mothers once stood, a platform of close-packed rubble contained by a fifteen-foot wall of mud-brick. In the sand surrounding the base of the wall Prof. Emery's expedition has discovered several caches of bronzes, which contained one fine statue of Amun, "King of the Gods" and god of fertility, and one of Osiris, god of the dead, both probably belonging to the 26th to the 30th dynasties, 663-343 B.C. Prof. Emery has two possible explanations for these caches: possibly the profusion of statues presented to the temple by suppliants created an embarrassing number of figures which had to be respectfully disposed of, or possibly these statues were hidden in the sand during crises while Egypt was under Persian domination in the fourth and fifth centuries B.C.

In a small house, somewhat removed from the platform, Professor Emery found a pile of cattle bones, fragments of cattle mummies, and a unique sacred image of a cow. The image consists of a foreshortened wooden body of a reclining cow, having as its head a real cow's skull, whose flesh has been reconstructed in clay. The whole is plastered and gaily painted with black and white markings, like the traditional Apis

figure, with lotus garlands, a red saddle cloth and a hawk with outspread wings. Professor Emery believes that the mummy fragments and possibly the cow statue itself, if not a temple image, may have been dragged by plunderers from the labyrinth for which he is looking, which must be adjacent to the site of the temple and possibly directly beneath the house.

The temple itself was completely destroyed and a Christian settlement lasting at least until the twelfth century was built on the platform. The original temple cornice blocks were re-used and the cartouches on them, naming the builder, suggest that it was constructed in the fourth century B.C. An inscription stating that the temple was dedicated to the Apis mother was discovered last year.

Next season's plans call for a complete excavation of the temple area and a further search for the elusive catacomb of the holy cows. Professor Emery also hopes to find further clues to the location of the tomb of Imhotep, which he believes to be in the vicinity of his present excavations.

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK INSTITUTE AND ABUSIR

Dr. Zbynek Zaba, Director of the Czechoslovak Institute of Archeology, first came to Cairo in 1957, where he spent the next two years learning Arabic and studying techniques of excavating in Egypt. In 1959 the Czechs were granted a concession for excavating at Abusir, but the first season was a short one, devoted to clearing the area. The work, which had barely begun, was interrupted by the Nubian Campaign, in which the Czechs participated from 1961 to 1965, using as their headquarters a catamaran, which became a familiar sight to other expeditions working in the area. Dr. Zaba returned to Abusir in 1966, but again little was accomplished beyond clearing the area of the sand which had accumulated over the previous five years. Excavations were suspended in 1967, partly because of the political situation and partly because of lack of funds. To make up for lost time, Dr. Zaba is currently working a double season, from January through August, an eight-hour day right through the summer. The Institute is conveniently established in a small villa located at 18 Avenue des Pyramides, not far from Mena House.

The Czechoslovak expedition at Abusir is excavating the Fifth Dynasty mastaba of Ptahshepses, located a short distance southeast of the Pyramid of Sehere. Originally listed by the German Egyptologist Professor Lepsius as one of thirty pyramids hitherto unknown to previous travelers, the site was first excavated by De Morgan in 1893, who proved that Lepsius had been wrong and the construction was actually a mastaba and not a pyramid.



As of mid-season, Dr. Zaba reported that the outer walls of the mastaba of Ptahshepses could now be traced and revealed that this was the largest known mastaba in Egypt, even larger than that of Mereruka, vizier and son-in-law of Teti, which has until now been generally considered the largest.

Many of the reliefs on the walls of the Central Hall of the mastaba were found to be in a good state of preservation, illustrating the various industries traditionally portrayed in tombs but including beer-making. It was apparent that the mastaba was built over a number of years, since in various places it described Ptahshepses with different titles before and then after he was made a vizier. One painted relief depicted a pillar with a lotus capital, and fragments of just such a pillar, with shaft and capital measuring  $6\frac{1}{2}$  meters, were found inside the mastaba enclosure. Dr. Zaba believes this to be one of the earliest appearances of the lotus capital.

#### EIGHTEENTH TO TWENTIETH DYNASTY GRAFFITI

Professor Yaroslav Černý, the distinguished Egyptologist, was in Luxor from February until April, where he had a successful season, his third, studying the graffiti of the Necropolis at Thebes.

Professor Černý explained that this project was sponsored jointly by UNESCO and the Center of Documentation. The aim is to locate close to 1,000 graffiti first discovered in the 1880's by the German Wilhelm Spiegelberg and described by him in two volumes published in 1921. Professor Černý reported that at the end of the season he had located more than 500 of Professor Spiegelberg's graffiti and had discovered some 300 new ones. This could, he thought, develop into a ten-year project.

The graffiti which Professor Černý examined were those left by workmen on the royal tombs in Thebes during the reigns of Thutmose II and Ramses II, in the 18th to 20th Dynasties. One series of graffiti listed six generations of workmen, one of whom was named after a vizier, presumably in an attempt to increase the chances of the workman's promotion. Another graffito contained the will of the second wife of a workman in which she deliberately excluded three of her husband's children, whom she disliked, from her will and left her estate to the other three children, who had apparently welcomed her into the family as a step-mother.

As Professor Černý identified and recorded the various graffiti, whose whereabouts had only vaguely been described by Spiegelberg, a cartographer came from Paris periodically to chart their location on a map.

ABU SIMBEL

The UAR-UNESCO Committee of Archeologists and Landscape Architects for Abu Simbel met from March 25-30, 1968 with an inspection visit to Abu Simbel.

Dr. John A. Wilson, American member of the Committee, reports that the Great Temple has been completed up to the line of baboons across the facade, the Little Temple is entirely completed and only a portion of the scaffolding remains. Work on the two hills should be finished by July and the inauguration of the two temples in their new location, according to the Minister of Culture, will probably take place in September of this year. Although the removing of workshops and storehouses and the landscaping of the area may take another two years, the magnificently reconstructed temples will be on full display in 1968-69.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS IN THE INSTITUT D'EGYPTE

Following the resignation of the former President, Dr. Kamel Hussein, elections were held in mid-March for officers of the Institut d'Egypte. The following were elected:

President:	Dr. Hussein Fawzi
Vice President:	Dr. Mohamed Reda
Secretary General:	Dr. Mahmoud Hafez
Treasurer:	Dr. Mohamed Mustapha
Assistant Secretary General:	Rev. Père Anawati
Corresponding Member:	Rev. Père Henri Ayrout
Corresponding Member:	Dr. Michel Farah



### APPARITION AT ZEITOUN

Since the night of April 2nd, when a Moslem bus driver first spread the word that he had seen a woman on the cupola of the Coptic Church of the Virgin Mary in Zeitoun, one of the suburbs of Cairo, thousands of faithful, curious, and idle have visited the church each night. The apparition has been reported by some only as a column of light above the cupola, while others claim to have distinguished the features of the Virgin's face, her head veiled and wearing flowing robes. On other occasions what appear to be the head and shoulders of a human form have been seen in one of the four towers of the church, illuminated from behind by a strong light. On still other occasions a reddish light is reported to glow in one of the four towers of the church, or a flight of birds in curious formation has been seen flying over the church.

During April and May an average of ten thousand people, Moslems, Christians, Jews and unbelievers, jammed the street in front of the church each night in an all-night vigil, mostly standing but some sitting in the street, hoping to see the apparition, which sometimes appeared early in the evening, at other times in the small hours of the morning, and some nights not at all.

The phenomenon was mentioned in the press, at first cautiously and then with more conviction as the number of eye-witnesses grew. One paper ran an article for two days, in which the author examined the various possible physical explanations for the phenomenon, and then eliminated them systematically. Finally, on May 4th Archbishop Kyrillos VI held a press conference in which he announced the findings of a committee of priests he had appointed to investigate the phenomenon. The Coptic Church, the Archbishop said, accepted the findings of the committee and ruled that the phenomena were indeed visitations of the Virgin.

Since the Archbishop's pronouncement, the area has been cordoned off, an admission charge of ten piasters reduces the numbers of spectators and entitles each to a folding chair. By June the apparitions were becoming less and less frequent, but the halt, the sick, and the blind continue to come from miles away to visit the church, and many claim miraculous cures.

### OBJECTS FROM EGYPTIAN MUSEUM TO BE EXHIBITED IN MEXICO

Negotiations are now taking place for the Egyptian Museum to lend a number of pharaonic objects for display during the forthcoming Olympic Games at Mexico City. The Mexican Ambassador in Cairo explained that the display would be part of the cultural program which will run concurrently with the Games, a revival of the ancient Greek tradition. The cost of transporting and displaying the Egyptian Museum objects will be borne by a group of private Mexican firms working in conjunction with the Olympic Committee.

NOTES ON ARCHEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT

Department of Antiquities

While clearing the enormous granite blocks and other rubble from in front of the entrance to the Third Pyramid of Mycerinus (Menkaure) at Giza on May 9th, workmen under the direction of Mr. Heshmat Messiha and Mr. Aly Hassan uncovered an hieroglyphic inscription carved on the northern face of the pyramid. The inscription, part of which has been excellently preserved, lies only three feet below the level of the entrance to the pyramid, which was also the level of the rubble before clearing operations began on May 1st. The inscription begins with the statement that Menkaure died in winter on the twenty-third day of the fourth month "Kiak" and was buried with all his possessions in the pyramid. Many sherds, pieces of alabaster and faience have been unearthed in the area. Excavations have now reached the level of the plateau and a mudbrick structure in front of the pyramid is being exposed, although Mr. Hassan says it is still too early to speculate either on its age or its function. The inscription is considered particularly significant because it is the only hieroglyphic inscription known to exist either on the inside or the outside face of any of the pyramids in the Giza complex.

---

The ruins of a 12th Dynasty palace belonging to Amenemhet III have recently been excavated at Tell Basta by the Department of Antiquities. The palace, of which traces of some halls, a bedroom and bath and store-rooms remain, was apparently destroyed by fire, possibly set by the Hyksos. The same expedition also uncovered a 12th Dynasty cemetery with sarcophagi containing coral bracelets, carnelian and gold scarabs, and a ring bearing a Bastet design.

---

A meeting of the newly-formed Committee for the Salvage of Philae was held in April. According to reports, the consensus was that the Temple should remain in situ, and that it should be protected from the rising waters of the Nile by dams.

---

A general reassignment of Inspectors of Antiquities and some changes within the Department itself are scheduled to be announced during the summer months.

---



#### OTHER EXPEDITIONS

Archeologically, this has been a busy season in Egypt. Excavations at Karnak, Esna, Abydos, Saqqara, El Kab, Abusir and Giza have been described elsewhere in this issue.

An expedition sponsored by the Papyrological Institute of Milan under the direction of Miss Edda Bresciani completed its third season at Medinet Madi in Fayoum on March 22. Work continued to the east of the dromos of the pharaonic temple, where a sesame oil factory and the ruins of some houses inhabited as late as the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. were discovered. Some interesting papyri, consisting of letters and documents, were found.

Also working in the Fayoum area has been an expedition directed by Professor Puglisi of the Mission for Prehistoric Research of the University of Rome, which has been examining the microlithic and neolithic levels of the ancient lake. The expedition discovered a great many flints, some animal bones, and pieces of pottery.

The Spanish archeological mission, under the direction of Dr. J. Lopez, continued its work at Heracleopolis Magna (Ehnasya el Medineh) in the Beni Suef area during January and February. The expedition continued to clear the temple of Ramses II and uncovered a Middle Kingdom necropolis southeast of the temple containing tombs belonging to the family of a high official of Heracleopolis. Reliefs on the walls of three almost identical tombs portrayed the occupant of the tomb in front of an offering table laden with fruits and flowers. A common chapel serving the tombs in the immediate vicinity was decorated with agricultural scenes and false doors.

Because of its location in a security area, the excavation at Mendes could not be resumed this year.

The search for a possible chamber in the upper portion of the Chephren Pyramid by recording the pattern of cosmic rays on two spark chambers located in the funeral chamber continues. Tapes have been made, but the processing of these tapes awaits the arrival of a computer.

Mr. Ray Smith has ended another season, which he reports as successful, of photographing and programming characteristics of the blocks from the Karnak temple of Akhneton.

THE CENTER'S GUEST BOOK

April, May and June saw a number of visitors to the Center, many of them passing through Cairo as the various expeditions in Upper Egypt closed their seasons for the year.

During April the following checked in at the Center: most of the Chicago House personnel, Mr. David O'Connor and his staff from Abydos (see his Summary Report elsewhere in this issue), Mr. Lanny Bell from Dra Abu El-Naga, Mrs. Helen Jacquet and her husband, both with the French Institute (see Mrs. Jacquet's article, the Desert of Esna in this issue) and Dr. and Mrs. Jaroslav Černý from Oxford University. Dr. Werner Kaiser, the new Director of the German Archeological Institute in Cairo, called at the Center during April, as did Dr. Hussein Fawzy, the newly elected President of the Institut d'Égypte. Professor Sergio Donadoni, head of the Egyptological Section at the University of Rome, and his wife called at the Center while on a brief visit to Cairo during which Professor Donadoni delivered a lecture at the American University on "Some Ramesside Paintings."

During May, Dr. Louis Abkar of the Oriental Institute called at the Center on his return from an expedition in the Sudan. Mr. Eric Pace, New York Times correspondent stationed in Cairo, stopped by for a periodic briefing on the activities of the Center. Dr. Bernarda Perc, Professor of Egyptology from Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, called to discuss plans for starting a Yugoslav Archeological Institute in Egypt. Dr. Hachishi Suzuke of the Department of Archeology at the University of Tokyo and currently Cultural Attache at the Japanese Embassy, presented the Center with two illustrated publications printed in connection with the 1965 Tutankhamen Exhibition in Japan. Professor Francois Dauman, Director of the French Institute, visited the Center accompanied by two visiting French scholars. Dr. James E. Harris, Dr. Paul Bonitz, Dr. Arthur Storey and Mr. Kent Weeks reported in at the end of the month to begin their project of x-raying the mummies of the pharaohs at the Egyptian Museum and the skulls of the skeletons in the "Reisner collection" at Giza. Dr. Edward Terrace of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts was the first of the 1968-69 Fellows to arrive in Cairo.

In June Dr. Edmund Lasalle, President of the International Fund for Monuments, arrived in Cairo with his wife and called at the Center at the beginning of several weeks' stay in the U.A.R.



- 21 -

FORMER FELLOWS

Bruce Hungerford, currently in Upper Egypt under an ARCE grant, is completing photography for a comprehensive art book on pharaonic monuments to be produced in collaboration with Dr. Ahmed Fakhry. During the last year Vanguard has released the first of Mr. Hungerford's series of recordings devoted to the complete piano sonatas of Beethoven. Reviews by Harris Goldsmith, chief music critic of Hi Fidelity magazine, were most enthusiastic. During the last winter Mr. Hungerford has given concerts in Carnegie Hall, as well as in Brussels and Munich. He has also delivered lectures on Ancient Egypt in New York, Texas and Brussels.

Helen Jacquet has been busy this last winter participating in a series of excavations by the French Institute of Archeology at Kelia, Karnak North and Esna (see her article in this issue), and by the University of Geneva on Orgo Island north of Dongola in the Sudan. This summer she and her husband will return to the "recreation-excavations" with the Lebanese Department of Antiquities at Tyre. While at Karnak Mrs. Jacquet resumed her work on the Khonsu Temple graffiti. She has also been brushing up on Meroitic in preparation for the eventual publication of Meroitic ostraca from Site B (Shokan) north of Abu Simbel, found by the University of Leiden Expedition of which she was a member, and of the Meroitic inscriptions, hieroglyphic and cursive, found in the Orgo excavations.

Edward Wente, who served as Director of the Cairo Center in 1957-58, has since that time been associated with the University of Chicago's Epigraphic Expedition at Luxor. He has been working primarily on New Kingdom monuments, including the mortuary temple of Ramesses III and the High Gate at Medinet Habu, the Nubian temple of Ramesses II at Beit el Wali, the tomb of Kheruef and, more recently, the late Ramessid Khonsu Temple. After nine seasons at Chicago House, Luxor, Dr. Wente returns this fall to the University of Chicago, where he will teach Egyptian history.

John Alden Williams is the Director of the Center for Arabic Studies (see his article elsewhere in this issue) and professor at the American University in Cairo. Dr. Williams was Assistant Director of the ARCE in Cairo from 1958-59, after which he became Assistant and then Associate Professor at the Institute for Islamic Studies at McGill for seven years before returning to Cairo in his present capacity. In the fall of 1967 Dr. Williams was visiting professor at the Department of Near Eastern Languages, University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Williams has been writing for the Middle East Journal, Muslim World and Asian Studies. His Themes of Islamic Culture is soon to be published by George Braziller, Inc.

IN MEMORIAM

Members of the Center will learn with keen regret of the loss of Horace L. Mayer who died suddenly in Monte Carlo on February 21, 1968. Mr. Mayer had long been interested in Egyptian and classical art and studies and had formed a significant collection of antiquities. He was a visitor to the Egyptian and Classical Departments of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and generously contributed to the support of the programs and collections of that institution. The Center has lost in him, an interested and valued member.



PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

Cooney, John D.

"Intaglios, Cameos, and Related Works,"  
in The Bulletin of The Cleveland Museum  
of Art LV (1968), pp. 113-119; illus.

Among the small objects discussed in this article are a number from Egypt. These include an inlay head of a Late Dynastic or Ptolemaic king in red glass suggesting jasper, a fine late Ptolemaic or Roman mask in dark-green glass, and a group of three New Kingdom amulets in hard stone. Into a very readable article, Mr. Cooney has packed useful information about the materials, methods of manufacture, functions, and possible dates of the pieces he describes.

Fischer, Henry G.

Ancient Egyptian Representations of  
Turtles (New York, 1968); 35 pp., 102  
figs., 20 plates, col. frontis. (Metro-  
politan Museum of Art Papers No. 13)

Dr. Fischer's monograph deals with the three-clawed water turtle Trionyx triunguis, which was once common in Egypt but has now retreated to the upper Nile and the more remote rivers of Africa. It served as food to the predynastic Egyptians and to some extent to those of the Old Kingdom, but it early came to be looked upon with misgivings, partly on account of its predatory habits but chiefly because of "the mystery of its shadowy, underwater existence," for it could remain submerged as long as ten hours at a time, immobile excepting when it darted forth its head to seize its passing prey. It naturally came to be regarded as the enemy of the sun god, particularly dangerous when Re was obliged to pass beneath the Nile on his nocturnal journey. While Dr. Fischer's paper centers upon a diorite turtle of early Dynasty I recently acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he assembles and illustrates a large number of additional examples in many materials and from many museums and collections, thus making his monograph a definitive study of the turtle as it appeared to the ancient Egyptians.

Scanlon, George T.

"Fustat and the Islamic Art of Egypt," in  
Archaeology 21 (1968), no. 3, pp. 188-195;  
illus.

Dr. Scanlon here outlines the history of Fustat, the city that rose on the site of the first encampment of the Arabs who came to conquer Egypt in 639 A.D., and relates how the excavations of the Center, conducted under his leadership since 1964, have contributed to the knowledge of the early capital and its inhabitants and of

the development of the Islamic art of Egypt. In great part destroyed by fire in 1168, Fustat "became the rubbish heap and dumping ground of Mameluke and Ottoman Cairo" and has remained an unsavory wasteland until today. Its mounds have been pilfered here and there for the sake of the treasures they contain, but only a few serious archaeologists have attempted systematic excavation. The excavations of the Center, which Dr. Scanlon here summarizes, have gone far toward revealing the part played by Fustat in the economic and cultural life of Egypt from the Abbasid period to the time of its destruction. It was a civilized city, with a system of water supply and sanitation unknown to most of the centers of medieval Europe. Throughout its history it enjoyed a commercial and industrial prominence, manufacturing and exporting fine textiles, glass and lustered pottery, and receiving in its markets the products of the Far and Middle East, the entire Mediterranean littoral, and Africa. Rich evidence of the city's manufacture and trade has been gained through the artifacts uncovered during excavation, many of which are illustrated in this article. Dr. Scanlon, who has been associated with the ARCE since 1959, is also at present a Fellow of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies of Harvard University and Senior Associate Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford University. He will resume the direction of the Center's excavation at Fustat in September, 1968.

Thomas, Elizabeth

"Was Queen Mutnedjemet the Owner of Tomb 33 in the Valley of the Queens?" in Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 53 (1967), pp. 161-163; illus.

Robert Hari's study Horemheb et la reine Moutnedjemet assigns Tomb 33 in the Valley of the Queens to Mutnedjemet rather than to the otherwise unknown queen Tanedjemy (t) who Miss Thomas assumed to be the owner in her Royal Necropoleis of Thebes. Since Tomb 33 is barely accessible and the cartouche on which Miss Thomas's assumption is based is damaged, this question must remain unsolved. The author urges the complete clearance of this and other tombs in the Queen's Valley before any historical evidence they may contain has vanished forever.

Trigger, Bruce G.

Beyond History: The Methods of Prehistory, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York (1968), 105 pp., map., figs., bibliography. (Studies in Anthropological Method, ed. by George and Louise Spindler)

In this excellent monograph Professor Trigger of McGill University discusses the methods used in piecing together information about the lives and achievements of peoples who left no written records for posterity. Under general headings -- an "Introduction" dealing with "History and Archaeology" followed by chapters on "Race,



Language and Culture," "Society and Culture," "Culture Change," and "Social Development" he defines the terminology of prehistory and gives in broad outline the ways followed by scholars in their attempt to reconstruct the history of early man. Of particular interest to members of the Center is the last chapter of Professor Trigger's study, which is entitled "Predynastic Egypt." Here he summarizes, with critical comments, the many theories that have been advanced concerning the first inhabitants of the Nile Valley. A more detailed review of this useful work will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt. It might be added here that Figures 1 and 2 (the only illustrations in the monograph) have regrettably been reversed.

Tufnell, O., and Ward, W.A. "Relations Between Byblos, Egypt, and Mesopotamia at the end of the Third Millennium B.C. A Study of the Montet Jar," extracted from Syria XLIII (1966), fasc. 3-4, pp. 165-241, illus., plates.

This careful reappraisal of a jar and its contents discovered at Byblos by Pierre Montet nearly a half-century ago, casts further light on the interchange, not only between Syria and Egypt but between Syria and Mesopotamia and Anatolia. Here for the first time the important contents of the jar are reproduced in excellent photographs and careful drawings and their significance as historical documents is discussed in detail. A fuller review of this work will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of American Research Center in Egypt.

Ward, W.A. "Three Phoenician Seals of the Early First Millennium B.C.," in Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 53 (1967), pp. 69-74; illus., plate.

These seals of the eighth to sixth centuries B.C. admirably illustrate what Professor Ward calls the "inventive syncretism" of Phoenician art, an "often superb blend of Egyptian, Aegean, Anatolian, and West Asiatic elements." The most elaborate of them is in the form of an exuberantly carved steatite scarab of apparently unique design. The top shows a rather rococo treatment of the usual beetle details. The base is divided by double lines into fourteen sections, a large central panel containing the figure of a king or a divinity, surrounded by smaller panels with winged disk, winged scarab, griffins, ankh signs, cobras, lions, and ibexes. While these elements are to be found in Egyptian art, they are here treated in an entirely foreign manner, which Professor Ward traces to various sources. His article also treats of two scaraboids in hard stone (Lapis lazuli and carnelian), the first with a walking griffin and the second with two kneeling figures confronting a stylized palm tree or column erected in a papyrus boat with a winged falcon hovering overhead.

Vermeule, Cornelius C.

"Greek Sculpture and Roman Taste," in  
Bulletin of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
LXV (1967), pp. 175-192; illus., plates.

While with the exception of a fleeting reference to the Graeco-Egyptian god Sarapis this article has small bearing on Egyptian art or culture, it should be of interest to anyone interested in the history of sculpture, in the methods of ancient copyists, and in the history of taste. It is, moreover, fascinating reading and on this account alone highly to be recommended.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The American Research Center in Egypt, Inc., will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 9, 1968 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Near East Center, University of Pennsylvania has graciously offered to host this meeting. The Director of the Near East Center, Dr. Thomas Naff will serve as Chairman of the Committee for the selection of papers to be read at the meeting.

Members interested in presenting papers should submit a short abstract to Dr. Naff no later than October 1, 1968. Please send the abstract to:

Dr. Thomas Naff, Director  
Near East Center  
Box 25, Bennett Hall  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Speakers will be limited to twenty minutes: the abstracts should reflect the length of the paper.

The Center office in Cambridge, Massachusetts will be sending the members additional information concerning the meeting. Please address any inquiries to the American Research Center in Egypt, 1430 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138.